

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

10. (New) A method of processing invoices, the method comprising the steps of:

providing one or more unmatched invoices;
periodically inquiring to determine if a new goods received receipt (GRR) is present; and
performing a logical three-way match between the GRR and each of the unmatched invoices, wherein the logical three-way match includes:

comparing a GRR number on the unmatched invoice with a GRR number on the GRR;

comparing a unit price on the unmatched invoice with a unit price on the GRR;

comparing a quantity on the unmatched invoice with a quantity on the GRR;

finding a match if one of the following is true:

(1) the GRR numbers match, the unit prices match, and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(2) no match was found for (1), and the GRR numbers match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(3) no match was found for (1) and (2), and the unit prices match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; and

(4) no match was found for (1), (2) and (3), and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice and the unmatched invoice is the oldest unmatched invoice; and
generating a logical result of each logical three-way match.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising removing an unmatched invoice after a predetermined period of time.

12. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

storing one or more unmatched invoices in a computer memory;

storing each GRR in a database; and

transferring a matched invoice and the logical result to the database.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising storing purchase orders in the database.

14. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising entering an unmatched invoice into a computer memory using an invoice processing tool.

15. (New) An invoice processing system, comprising:

entry means for entering and storage means for storing one or more unmatched invoices;

a database tool having one or more goods received receipts stored in a database; and

matching tool means coupled to said entry means and said database tool for:

periodically inquiring to determine if a new goods received receipt (GRR) is present; and

performing a logical three-way match between the GRR and each of the one or more unmatched invoices, wherein the logical three-way match includes:

comparing a GRR number on the unmatched invoice with a GRR number on the GRR;

comparing a unit price on the unmatched invoice with a unit price on the GRR;

comparing a quantity on the unmatched invoice with a quantity on the GRR; and

finding a match if one of the following is true:

(1) the GRR numbers match, the unit prices match, and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(2) no match was found for (1), and the GRR numbers match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(3) no match was found for (1) and (2), and the unit prices match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; and

(4) no match was found for (1), (2) and (3), and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice and the unmatched invoice is the oldest unmatched invoice; and generating a logical result of each logical three-way match.

16. (New) The system of claim 15, further comprising a transfer tool for transferring a matched invoice and the logical result to the database.

17. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the entry means comprises means for electronic entry.

B 18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the entry means further comprises means for electronic entry via EDI 850 protocol.

19. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the database tool is SAP.

20. (New) The system of claim 15, further comprising storing purchase orders in the database.

21. (New) A data processing apparatus for processing invoices, said apparatus comprising;

means for entering and means for storing one or more unmatched invoices in an invoice processing tool;

means for providing a database tool having one or more goods received receipts stored in a database;

means for periodically inquiring to determine if a new goods received receipt (GRR) is present; and

means for performing a logical three-way match between the GRR and each of the one or more unmatched invoices, wherein the logical three-way match includes:

comparing a GRR number on the unmatched invoice with a GRR number on the GRR;

comparing a unit price on the unmatched invoice with a unit price on the GRR;

comparing a quantity on the unmatched invoice with a quantity on the GRR; and

finding a match if one of the following is true:

(1) the GRR numbers match, the unit prices match, and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(2) no match was found for (1), and the GRR numbers match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(3) no match was found for (1) and (2), and the unit prices match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; and

(4) no match was found for (1), (2) and (3), and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice and the unmatched invoice is the oldest unmatched invoice; and means for generating a logical result of each logical three-way match.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for transferring a matched invoice and the logical match result to the database.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising storing purchase orders in the database.

24. (New) A computer program product for processing invoices, said computer program product comprising;

a computer readable medium;

first program instruction means for entering and means for storing one or more unmatched invoices in an invoice processing tool;

second program instruction means for providing a database tool having one or more goods received receipts stored in a database;

third program instruction means for periodically inquiring to determine if a new goods received receipt (GRR) is present; and

fourth program instruction means for performing a logical three-way match between the GRR and each of the one or more unmatched invoices, wherein the logical three-way match includes:

comparing a GRR number on the unmatched invoice with a GRR number on the GRR;

comparing a unit price on the unmatched invoice with a unit price on the GRR;

comparing a quantity on the unmatched invoice with a quantity on the GRR; and

finding a match if one of the following is true:

(1) the GRR numbers match, the unit prices match, and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(2) no match was found for (1), and the GRR numbers match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(3) no match was found for (1) and (2), and the unit prices match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; and

(4) no match was found for (1), (2) and (3), and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice and the unmatched invoice is the oldest unmatched invoice; and
generating a logical result of each logical three-way match.

25. (New) The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising fifth program instruction means for transferring a matched invoice and the logical match result to the database.

B 26. (New) The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising storing purchase orders in the database.

27. (New) Computer executable process steps operative to control a computer, stored on a computer readable medium, for processing invoices, comprising;

a step to periodically inquire to determine if a new goods received receipt (GRR) is present; and

a step to perform a logical three-way match between the GRR and an unmatched invoice, wherein the logical three-way match includes:

a step to compare a GRR number on the unmatched invoice with a GRR number on the GRR;

a step to compare a unit price on the unmatched invoice with a unit price on the GRR;

a step to compare a quantity on the unmatched invoice with a quantity on the GRR;

a step to obtain a logical match result if one of the following is true:

(1) the GRR numbers match, the unit prices match, and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(2) no match was found for (1), and the GRR numbers match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice;

(3) no match was found for (1) and (2), and the unit prices match and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice; and

(4) no match was found for (1), (2) and (3), and the quantity on the GRR is greater than or equal to the quantity on the unmatched invoice and the unmatched invoice is the oldest unmatched invoice, and
a step to generate a logical result of each logical three-way match.

28. (New) The computer executable process steps of claim 24, further comprising a step to transfer a matched invoice and the logical match result to the database.

29. (New) The computer executable process steps of claim 27, further comprising storing purchase orders in the database.